

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LXIII No. 4, December 2025



## 585th Regular Meeting

DATE: Saturday, December 20, 2025  
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners  
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL (NW corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
TIME: 11 a.m.  
PROGRAM: **Memorabilia Show & Tell**  
MODERATOR: Robert I. Girardi

December is the time for us to enjoy our annual Christmas party and to share our varied perspectives on the Civil War. We tend to concentrate on the battles, leaders, and events of the war. The many battlefields, historic sites, and museums are grand reminders, but many of us have personal ties to the war, whether through ancestry, artifacts, photographs, soldiers' letters and diaries, or other documents. Many of us read books or build libraries and collections of historic memorabilia. We each bring a unique viewpoint or item that helps us all better understand the war we study. Join us this month as we explore these topics.

### Our Presenters:

**Steve Alban** will discuss Civil War coins.

**Brian Conroy** will discuss several veterans' items in his collection of First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics memorabilia.

**Art Foley** will examine an iconic photograph of the Union officers present in Fort Sumter at the onset of the war.

**Nancy Fritz** will show her ancestor's sword and the map of Virginia he carried.

**Ginny Pocuniar** will show travelogues she compiled from several Civil War Battlefield tours.

**Brian Seiter** will discuss 74th Indiana Veteran David Smalley's service records, books and photos. Smalley is one of Brian's Civil War ancestors.

**Please remember that this is our Christmas event.  
Bring a treat to share with our members and enjoy yourself.**

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The current Salt Creek CWRT board has run again unopposed and has volunteered to remain in office for another year. THANKS TO THE OFFICERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE.

**2025 Membership Renewals are due in January.** The renewal form is included with the newsletter.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

James Hanson

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

December 5, 2025 at 7 p.m.

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Bruce Allardice presenting "*Aloa Oe! Hawaii and the Civil War*".  
Arlington Hts. Library.

December 9, 2025 at noon.

**Armchair General Discussion Group** will feature The Annual Trivia Game.  
Gail Borden Library in Elgin.

December 9, 2025 Zoom Only

**McHenry County CWRT** will feature David Mowery presenting "*Cincinnati in the Civil War*".  
Woodstock Library [www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

December 12, 2025

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Brian Jordan presenting "*Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*".  
Blossom Café, 8349 W. Lawrence Avenue, Norridge, IL 60706 [www.chicagocwrt.org](http://www.chicagocwrt.org)

December 16, 2025

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Fr. Bob Miller presenting "*Faith of Our Fathers*".  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL [lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

January 2, 2026

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Doug Dammann presenting "*The Kenosha Civil War Museum*".  
Arlington Hts. Library

January 5, 2026 at noon.

**Rock River Valley CWRT** will feature James Malanowski on "*Six Men who Could Have Stopped the Civil War*". Veteran's Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street, Rockford.

Kenosha Civil War Museum features **Second Friday Lectures at Noon.**

On December 12, 2025, Charlie Banks will present "Civil War Railroads and their Tactics". Free and Open to the Public and No Prior Registration is Required.

**The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's 2026 Tour will be "Charleston and Savannah"  
April 29-May 2, 2026. More details to follow. [www.chicagocwrt.org](http://www.chicagocwrt.org)**

## **Camp Douglas and Chicago during the Civil War**

The **Elk Grove Historical Museum** is hosting an exhibit on loan from the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation and the personal collection of Civil War historian Robert I. Girardi. This exhibition will provide visitors with a window to the City of Chicago during the Civil War. The camp served as both a training camp for Union soldiers recruited from northeastern Illinois and as a prisoner of war camp during its existence. **This exhibition will be on display until December 19.**

The Elk Grove Historical Museum is open Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 12-4pm. The museum is located at 399 Biesterfield Road, Elk Grove Village.

## **FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS**

Check us out on Facebook and at [saltcreekcwrt.org](http://saltcreekcwrt.org)

Jan. 17, 2026 Jonathan Sebastian will present '*When Draftees Did Their Duty: Four Months in the 51<sup>st</sup> Illinois*'.

Feb. 21, 2026 Dennis Doyle will present "*Cold Harbor 1864*".

Mar. 21, 2026 Ed Urban will present "*The Murder of CSA General Earl Van Dorn*".

Apr. 25, 2026 Charlie Banks will present "*General Nathaniel P. Banks*".

May 15, 2026 Brian Seiter will present "*To Wilson's Creek*".

June 19, 2026 Annual Banquet: Mark Pohlad will present "*Abraham Lincoln and Chicago*".

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Memorabilia Night was held.

**25 Years Ago:** Auction for Battlefield Preservation featuring Jerry Feinstein, Dan McCarthy and Robert Girardi.

**10 Years Ago:** Larry Gibbs presented "*The Reality of the Lost Cause*".

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Robert I. Girardi

Vice-President: Jan Rasmussen

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Brian Conroy, Rick Zarr, Dan McCarthy, Nancy & Jon Fritz

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jan Rasmussen, Rob Girardi, Brian Conroy

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

## **December 2025 Preservation Report by Brian Conroy**

### **Save 417 Acres at the Breakthrough**

Through the purchase of 417 acres at Pamplin Historical Park, the American Battlefield Trust has the rare chance to create an 857-acre unified battlefield park that boasts some of the best-preserved Civil War earthworks (fortifications) in the country. Connecting to hundreds of acres previously acquired by the Trust, the Pamplin campus includes historic trenches, Civil War-era buildings, a monument honoring Medal of Honor recipient Captain Charles G. Gould, the “First Man Over the Works.,” and an acclaimed living history museum that showcases the experience of ordinary Civil War soldiers.

Although now controlled by a preservation-minded private owner, the land remains zoned for industrial and commercial development and without the ironclad modern legal protections that Trust ownership will bring. Not even having been named a National Historical Landmark offers it any form of irrevocable protection. As open space across the region is gobbled up by warehouse distribution complexes and massive data centers, this vulnerability is a risk we cannot afford. But with your help today, we can make sure this park is permanently protected, ensuring that it is never snapped up by developers. And that, through creation of the Breakthrough Battlefield Foundation, the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier continues seamless operations in perpetuity.

A funding match has already been secured. Only \$660,000 remains to unlock permanent protection. Every dollar contributed will be multiplied 17-to-1, turning \$100 into \$1,700 in preservation power.

### **Preserve the Legacy.**

This is a rare Civil War landscape where the terrain, history, and memory remain united. Losing it to industrial and commercial development would sever the connection between past and present, and eliminate a vital place of learning, reflection, and honor.

The land we are now permanently protecting is where that turning point unfolded. It holds:

- Some two miles of pristine original trench lines carved by soldiers.
- Intact Civil War-era buildings and farmland.
- A Medal of Honor monument honoring unmatched bravery.
- An acclaimed and innovative museum that will continue operations uninterrupted under our management arrangement with the Breakthrough Battlefield Foundation.

The land at Pamplin Historical Park is more than an open field - it is a living classroom, a place where visitors can walk in the footsteps of history and understand the price of freedom. Losing it would mean erasing a chapter that cannot be rewritten.

SALT CREEK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership E-Mailed Newsletter \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership E-Mailed Newsletter \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-Mailed Newsletter \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailed Newsletter \$10 extra \_\_\_\_\_

I have included a separate donation for battlefield preservation: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Memberships received on or before the February meeting will be eligible for a free membership drawing.

Check payable to: Salt Creek CWRT

Mail to: Jan Rasmussen, Treasurer  
756 Sterling Court D2  
Bartlett, IL 60103

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in giving a presentation on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

